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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| MAHMOUDI, HASSAN |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2175 | *13* |

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sh et with the correspondence address* --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _27 January 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.          2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

**Attachment(s)**

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

# DETAILED ACTION

## *Remarks*

1. In response to communications filed on 27-January-2004, claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Knutson et al</u> (U.S. patent No. 5,870,746) in view of <u>Kondo et al</u> (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,865.)

As to claim 1, <u>Knutson et al</u> teaches a system adapted to cooperate with a data engine (see Abstract, where "data engine" is read on "database") which is responsive to a query (see column 6, lines 63-66), comprising at least one conditional attribute (see column 16, lines 38-45) and at least one display attribute (see column 3, line 54 through column 4, line 54) , to produce an associated report comprising at least one object (see column 16, lines 47-54), the at least one object comprising the at least one displayed attribute (see column 18, lines 29-39), the system comprising:

first means for rendering the at least one object from a report (see column 2, lines 20-25, and see column 18, lines 16-22, where "object from a report" is read on "segment", and see lines 32-37);

the first means, responsive to user interaction with the rendered report (see column 6, lines 56-62), for selecting one of the at least one displayed attribute (see column 6, lines 39-62);

second means for rendering the at least one conditional attribute for a query (see column 16, lines 38-54);

the second means, responsive to user interaction with the at least one rendered conditional attribute (see column 17, lines 8-11), for selecting one of the at least one conditional attribute (see column 27, lines 39-42, where "conditional attribute" is read on "conditional operator choices"); and

means, responsive to the at least one conditional and displayed attributes, for generating a subsequent query (see column 64, lines 44-65.)

Knutson et al does not teach:

causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and

causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute.

Kondo et al teaches a system for retrieving and classifying data (see Abstract), in which he teaches: causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute (see column 6, lines 12-33); and causing the one of the at

least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute (see column 2, lines 34-48.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knutson et al to include causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knutson et al by the teachings of Kondo et al, because causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute, would enable the system to allow the user to modify retrieval results from the current display as well as modifying the display format based on conditions set in the query. This results in "suppressing missing of data and decreases the number of trials and error times for reducing the time and labor required for retrievals", as taught by Kondo et al (see column 2, lines 31-33.)


As to claim 2, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the data engine is a database (see Knutson et al, Abstract, and see column 2, lines 20-28) and the query is an SQL query (see Knutson et al, column 6, lines 35-36, also see column 7, lines 11-15.)

As to claim 3, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the data engine is a simulation

tool (see Abstract, where "data engine" is read on "database", and see column 6, lines 63-66,

where "dimensional queries for retrieving data from data warehouse" is taught. As indicated

by the applicant in the <u>BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION</u> section, "simulation engines

can be thought of as operating in multi-dimensional space and queries on such engines are

often phrased in the form "show me attributes A, B and C when attribute D fulfils conditions

x and attribute E fulfils condition y.")


As to claim 4, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first and second selecting

means comprise respective means for navigating through the at least one attribute to select a

single conditional or displayed attribute to be changed (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 6, lines 56-

62, and see column 19, lines 16-17.)


As to claim 5, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches the system comprising:

means, responsive to user interaction with a selected conditional attribute, for

determining a value of the selected conditional attribute (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 5, lines

32-39) to be used as a condition in the subsequent query (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 13, lines

27-36.)


As to claim 6, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the value comprises a complex

expression (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 3, lines 58-65, where "complex expression" is read on

"expression that restricts the value", and see column 13, line 59 through column 14, line 13, where "complex expressions" is read on "compound requests".)


As to claim 7, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the determining means is responsive to user interaction (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 2, lines 50-51) to determine an adjusted value of the selected attribute's value as the condition (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 16, lines 1-8.)


As to claim 8, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first navigation means is responsive to user interaction (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause the selected displayed attribute to change to a conditional attribute (see <u>Kondo et al</u>, column 6, lines 12-33) and the second navigation means is responsive to user interaction (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause the selected conditional attribute to change to a displayed attribute (see <u>Kondo et al</u>, column 2, lines 34-48.)


As to claim 9, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first and second selecting means are responsive to user interaction (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause all conditional attributes to change to displayed attributes (see <u>Kondo et al</u>, column 2, lines 34-48) and to cause all displayed attributes to change to conditional attributes (see <u>Kondo et al</u>, column 6, lines 12-33.)

As to claim 10, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is

adapted to initially display all objects from a report associated with a query (see <u>Knutson et</u>

<u>al</u>, column 11, lines 12-19.)

As to claim 11, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is

adapted to display the objects in a table (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, figure 6, and see column 11, lines

20-22.)

As to claim 12, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is

adapted to display the objects isometrically (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 6, line 63 through

column 7, line 2, where "dimensional queries for display format" is taught.)

As to claim 13, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the second rendering means is

adapted to display the attributes isometrically (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 6, line 63 through

column 7, line 2, where "dimensional queries for display format" is taught.)

As to claim 14, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches the system comprising means for

receiving user input (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 25, lines 50-51) corresponding to at least a

portion of a first query (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 36, lines 46-50.)

As to claim 15, <u>Knutson et al</u> as modified teaches wherein the receiving means (see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 15, lines 48-52) comprises one of a natural language interface, a text entry field or a query-by-example analyzer ( see <u>Knutson et al</u>, column 6, lines 11-15, and see column 16, lines 65-67.)

As to claim 16, <u>Knutson et al</u> teaches a method adapted to be operable with a data engine (see Abstract, where "data engine" is read on "database") which is responsive to a query (see column 6, lines 63-66), comprising at least one conditional attribute (see column 16, lines 38-45) and at least one display attribute (see column 3, line 54 through column 4, line 54) , to produce an associated report comprising one or more objects (see column 16, lines 47-54), the at least one object comprising the at least one displayed attribute (see column 18, lines 29-39), the method comprising:

rendering the at least one object from a report (see column 2, lines 20-25, and see column 18, lines 16-22, where "object from a report" is read on "segment", and see lines 32-37);

responsive to user interaction with the rendered report (see column 6, lines 56-62), selecting one of the at least one displayed attribute (see column 6, lines 39-62);

rendering the at least one conditional attribute for a query (see column 16, lines 38-54);

responsive to user interaction with the at least one rendered conditional attribute (see column 17, lines 8-11), selecting one of the at least one conditional attribute (see column 27, lines 39-42, where "conditional attribute" is read on "conditional operator choices"); and

responsive to the at least one conditional and displayed attributes, generating a subsequent query (see column 64, lines 44-65.)

For the teachings of: causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute, the applicant is kindly directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

As to claim 17, Knutson et al as modified teaches a computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 20-37, and see column 7, lines 38-52) for, when executed on a computing device, allowing a user to refine a query, the program code comprising the system of claim 1 (the applicant is kindly directed to remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.)

*Response to Arguments*

4.  Applicant's arguments filed on 27-January-2004 with respect to the rejected independent claims 1 and 16 in view of the cited references have been fully considered but they are not deemed persuasive:

In response to the applicant's arguments that "nowhere in Kondo is there any mention of conditional attributes or displayed attributes", the arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive, because Kondo et al teaches "conditional attributes" and "displayed attributes" in column 6, lines 12-33, where "conditional attribute" is read on

"storing *attributes* attached to files and data", and "retrieving the file contents in response to

"*retrieval conditions*" specified by the user, and "displayed attributes" is read on a "*display*

*element*" generation section 5 which converts elements of the retrieval result transferred from

the file management section 4 into "*display elements*".

In response to the applicant's arguments that "Kondo does not classify file attributes into

two categories of attributes", the arguments have been fully considered but are not found

persuasive, because "*classifying file attributes into two categories of attributes*" is not recited

in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification,

limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988

F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Nevertheless, Kondo et al teaches

"classifying the retrieval results based on attributes of the files" (see Abstract, lines 3-4), and

teaches "a display conversion section which converts display elements into a form from

which the user can determine the number of elements in each group (see Abstract, lines 9-

12.)

In response to the applicant's arguments that "the examiner has not established that

Kondo teaches or suggests changing conditional attributes or displayed attributes responsive

to the other attributes", the arguments have been fully considered but are not found

persuasive in view of the remarks and discussions made above.
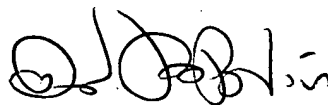
## *Conclusion*

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

March 22, 2004

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